



# Fairhaven

# Neighborhood News

A **FREE!** publication of all things Fairhaven



The little paper  
with a big voice!

Volume 13, Issue 5 • February 1, 2018

Teeming with information you need.  
(And some you don't need, but will be glad you have anyway.)

## BRRR!!!!



Participants of the annual Fort Phoenix Polar Plunge jump into the Atlantic Ocean on Sunday, 1/28/18, in Fairhaven. The annual plunge is usually held on January 1, but got postponed this year due to dangerously cold temperatures. On Sunday the temperature was 45 degrees, the water temp was 37, and it was raining steadily. But a little rain did not stop these hardy souls. See page 12 for story. *Photos by Beth David*



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### First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

# From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —  
A day late and many dollars short.



Beth David, Publisher

Oh, where do I begin?

You remember last week's article on the Board of Public Works needing to rescind the vote for the Water Superintendent, right? Well, they did it (see page 3), and no one changed his vote, so the same guy got the job.

Simple, right?  
Nah!

You also remember the part about that letter, the unsigned letter that the *Neighb News* was not supposed to have?

Well, that letter is quite the piece of work. It's a cheap shot at Jeff Furtado, who is now Fairhaven's Water Superintendent. I won't publish it unless he decides it is in his best interests to have it published. It's a cheap shot, by a petty man. The things in that letter were either gained by privileged information or from rumor, hearsay and innuendo. If the things in that letter are true, then a decent person would simply have asked the board to peruse Jeff Furtado's personnel file for areas of concern.

Instead, the person who wrote the letter disparaged Mr. Furtado's character and implied that he could not handle the stress of the job. As if our water will suddenly turn to poison if one guy takes a few days off. The author of the letter did not sign it, did not say where he got the information, and even refused to own up to writing it....at first anyway.

The *Neighb News* left messages for Selectboard member Dan Freitas by email and by phone, because we got a tip that he wrote the letter.

He did not answer either.

Before the meeting started on Thursday (see page 3), Mr. Freitas again refused to answer. First he said he had no intention of returning my call or email; then he said "no comment," and turned to a couple of people standing there and said: "You guys heard that, right?"

I guess the implication is that the *Neighb News* is fake news and that I, Beth David, editor, publisher, reporter and owner, production artist, bookkeeper, ad salesperson and delivery person, make up stuff because I've got nothing better to do.

In the course of the meeting, Mr. Freitas admitted to writing the letter, after he told the board how ashamed of themselves they should be.

I say, "Shame on YOU, Mr. Freitas."

Maybe the board did not handle this situation well. Okay, they didn't. To be honest, if not for your foolishness, this column would probably be all about making fun of them: Open meeting law snub, three times; public works superintendent not sharing the letter with the board; no discussion at the last meeting; a total lack of understanding of what it means to let the public in on the deal. But I digress.

You beat them out for fiasco of the week, Mr. Freitas.

Writing that letter was a cheap shot, an unfair shot at a guy who is simply trying to improve his professional situation.

Not signing the letter was cowardly.

How it got spread around behind the scenes is still unclear. But it was sneaky. Who did the sneaking around? I dont know. It doesn't matter.

You wrote the letter. It's on you.

Your bullying ways are becoming more and more clear as time goes on. And your judgement, well...see the above.

Until next week then...see ya,

# Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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## CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

# BPW hires Furtado again

By Beth David  
Editor

In a short, but lively meeting, the Fairhaven Board of Public Works rescinded their 1/11/18 vote to hire Jeff Furtado for Water Department Superintendent, then voted to hire him again, at a special meeting on Thursday, 1/25. The re-vote came after Town Counsel Thomas Crotty advised the board to do it all over again because the agenda item for the 1/11 meeting did not make it clear that they would be voting.

Hires are supposed to be voted on in open session. In executive session, which is not open to the public, preliminary interviews can be held, and contracts can be negotiated. Executive Session proceedings are confidential until the matter is resolved.

The first gaff was when the board voted to make a hire in executive session. According to an account by Robert "Hoppy" Hobson at the 1/25 meeting, the board first voted to hire the second finalist from Foxborough. Then, when they realized they needed to take that vote in open session, they reconvened in open session a few days later, on 1/11. In the meantime, a board

member changed his vote and Mr. Furtado, who works for the Fairhaven Water Department, was hired on a 3-2 vote, with Chairperson Mike Ristuccia, Brian Wotton, and Cameron Durant voting for Jeff Furtado; and Mr. Hobson and Keith Silvia voting for Thomas Weir of Foxborough. That is the vote that needed to be redone.

There may also be some problem with the latest vote, on 1/25, however, as the chairperson did not allow any public comment before the vote, despite a room jam-packed with more than 20 people.

The crowd was quiet for about 15 minutes as the meeting was delayed, waiting for BPW chairperson Mike Ristuccia to arrive. He said he got stuck in Boston traffic.

When the meeting started, Public Works Superintendent Vinnie Furtado (no relation to Jeff), explained how the meeting came about. He said that Edward Fortin, the long time Water Superintendent, retired in September. He had notified the department that he was retiring, but did not give them a date. He announced his last day without notice.

Carl Fleurent took over operations on an interim basis, while the board recruited for a new Water Superintendent. A subcommittee chose three finalists, but one dropped out, leaving Thomas Weir from Foxborough, and Jeff Furtado from Fairhaven. Mr. Fleurent was not a finalist.

Vinnie Furtado told the board and those assembled that they had 11 applicants after advertising in trade publications. They interviewed five, and chose their top three. One candidate from out of town dropped out, and that left Mr. Weir and Jeff Furtado.

"We had a very good candidate pool," said Vinnie Furtado, adding that the subcommittee took its job very seriously. He said that he believed either candidate would be good for the job.

Mr. Hobson and Vice Chair Brian Wotton told the crowd that they did not think it was necessary to have public comment. Mr. Hobson said he felt that after all the time the board put into making the decision, they should just vote.

He then explained that the initial vote was 3-2 for Mr. Weir, the vote that took place erroneously in Executive

SELECT: cont'd to page 22



## The Board of Selectmen invites you to share your thoughts at a Community Forum on Recreational Marijuana

Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
Monday, February 5, 2018 • 7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall • 40 Center Street • Fairhaven

In November 2016 the voters of Massachusetts approved a new law allowing the cultivation and sale of marijuana. The state set up the Cannabis Control Commission and that commission will begin accepting applications in April for licenses to operate marijuana businesses. Those licenses will include licenses to grow marijuana, licenses to produce and sell marijuana products, and licenses to consume marijuana in marijuana cafes, and in restaurants and bars.

Under the new law the town can regulate marijuana businesses. Those regulations can

include limits on the areas in town where those businesses may locate, reasonable regulation of the manner of operation of those businesses, or even out-right prohibition of some or all of those businesses.

Should the Town limit marijuana businesses? Should they be prohibited? Should there be no limitations? Whatever your thoughts are, we want to hear from you.

For more information, please contact Mark Rees, Town Administrator, at (508) 979-4023.

# Can't hold Town Meeting without Town Meeting members

By Beth David  
Editor

Both Fairhaven and Acushnet will hold elections on Monday, 4/2/18 for town offices. Nomination papers are available until 2/8. Candidates then are required to gather the proper number of signatures and return papers by end of business on Monday, 2/12.

In Fairhaven, papers for town-wide seats require 50 certified signatures; papers for town meeting members require 10 certified signatures from your precinct.

Fairhaven has a representative TM, meaning that only those elected as representatives of their precincts may vote. Each of the 6 precincts have approximately 60 seats, with one third up for election every three years.

Town Meeting (TM) incumbents do not have to gather signatures, but they must file a written request for re-election with the town clerk's office.

According to Fairhaven Town Clerk, Eileen Lowney only one TM member had filed a request to run for re-election as of last Friday.

Seats up for re-election are: Bob

Espindola on Selectboard; Donna McKenna and Colin Veitch on School Committee; Lindsay Gordon on Board of Health; Colleen Sylvia, Commissioner of Trust Funds; Robert Hobson and Keith Silvia for Board of Public Works; John Farrell and Peter Nopper on Planning Board; Gregory Tutcik on Housing Authority; a vacant, unexpired term on HA; Mark Sylvia for Moderator; Brian Bowcock for Tree Warden.

returned his yet; moderator Mrk Sylvia returned papers for his seat.

Tree Warden Brian Bowcock took out papers, but had not returned them in time for this story. G. Bourne Knowles also took out papers for Tree Warden, but had not returned them.

Both School Committee incumbents, Ms. McKenna and Mr. Veitch, took out papers, but had not returned them.

In what could turn out to be an honest-goodness contest, three people have taken out papers for two seats on the BPW: Mr. Hobson has returned papers for his seat; Keith Silvia took out papers but had not returned them in time for this story; and Albert Martin took out papers, but had not returned them.

For information on how to run for office, contact the Fairhaven Town Clerk at 508-979-4022, Ext. 3. Town hall address is 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719.

Tuesday, March 13, 2018, is the last day for town residents to register to vote in the town election. The clerk's office will be open until 8 p.m. that day.

For details on Acushnet's election, see page 16. •••

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Only one TM member had filed a request to run for re-election as of last Friday.

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Mr. Espindola has taken out papers for re-election but had not returned them in time for this story; Michael Silvia, a former Selectboard member, took out papers for Board of Health, with Ms. Gordon reportedly not running because she has moved out of town; Mr. Tutcik returned his papers for HA; Mr. Farrell has not

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### ASH WEDNESDAY

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# AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

## Nom Papers Avail.

Until 2/8. See page 4.

## Volleyball at Rec Ctr

Join town employees for volleyball at the Fairhaven Recreation Center, 227 Huttleston Ave. (near Stop & Shop), on **Sundays, starting 2/11, from 6:30-8 p.m.** Sponsored by YOUR Fairhaven Wellness Committee. For more info, call Phil at 508-993-6978.

## Republican Comm

The Fairhaven Republican Town Committee is meeting on **Wed., 2/7, at the Fairhaven Police Department (rear training room), 1 Bryant Lane, Fairhaven, at 6 p.m.**, to elect 8 delegates to the Mass. GOP Convention to be held on Sat., 4/18/18 at Worcester DCU Center. You don't need to be a member of the FRTC, but you do need to be a registered Fairhaven Republican. Come learn/live/enjoy/serve/participate. Snow date, 2/15).

## Democratic Comm

Registered Democrats in Fairhaven, will hold a caucus on **Sat., 2/10, at the Millicent Public Library, 45 Center Street in Fairhaven**, to elect delegates and alternates to the 2018 Mass. Democratic State Convention.

This year's state convention will be held June 1-2 at the DCU Center in Worcester, where thousands of Democrats from across the state will come together to endorse Democratic candidates for statewide office, including Constitutional Officers and gubernatorial candidates.

The caucus is open to all registered and pre-registered Democrats in Fairhaven. Pre-registered Democrats who will be 18 by September 18, 2018 will be allowed to participate and run as a delegate or alternate. Fairhaven can elect 8 delegates and 4 alternates to the Convention.

Youth, minorities, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ individuals who are not elected as a delegate or alternate may apply to be an add-on delegate at the caucus or at [www.massdems.org](http://www.massdems.org).

Those interested in getting involved with the Fairhaven Democratic Town Committee should contact Diana Painter at [dianamarie13@gmail.com](mailto:dianamarie13@gmail.com) or visit our facebook page at

[Facebook.com/FHVNdem.s](https://www.facebook.com/FHVNdem.s).

## SMEC Open House

The Southeastern Mass Educational Collaborative located at **56 Bridge Street in Fairhaven** invites friends, family, and the community to an Open House on **Thurs., 2/15, from 4 to 7 PM**.

The program provides services to Special Needs students at upper grade levels for day classes as well as extended day programming. Guests may observe student participation, take a tour of the building, and enjoy light refreshments. The staff and students look forward to meeting our neighbors. Come on in and see what they have been up to!

## Foxwoods Trip

The Fairhaven Village Militia is once again running a bus trip in March to Foxwoods Resort Casino as a fundraiser.

**The Foxwoods trip will be on Sat., 3/10.** The bus will leave the east side of the Staples parking lot in Fairhaven promptly at 9:00 a.m. and will travel straight through to the casino. Return time is 5:00 p.m. **Tickets for the trip are \$30 each and include a voucher for the buffet and \$10 gambling credit.** (Only adults are eligible for the vouchers.) The militia will hold some raffles on the bus during the trip.

Tickets can be purchased at Mike & Wayne's, 163 Huttleston Ave., Fairhaven, or by calling Ellie, 508-441-7566 or emailing [madeinu@aol.com](mailto:madeinu@aol.com).

The Fairhaven Village Militia uses the funds raised by this trip to support its programs during the year, including its two historical encampments at Fort Phoenix, participation in the Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades and the Fourth of July Ceremony, among other things.

## Still Searching for Classmates

The Fairhaven High School Class of 1968 Reunion Committee is still trying to find a few of our classmates. We are looking for contact information on Barbara (Sylvia) Carr, Robert Carr, and Barbara A. Neve. If you have any information on how we can connect with them, we would appreciate your help. Please forward any info you have to 508-994-8627 or to the class

email: [fhsclassof68@aol.com](mailto:fhsclassof68@aol.com). We have a Facebook page: Fairhaven High School, Class of 68.

There were many that attended school with us, but who may not have graduated with the class. We welcome you to join us for the 50th Reunion in June. Please use the above methods to contact us if you are interested in joining us for a great celebration!

## Japanese Language Classes

Sponsored by the Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society, 8-week course, **Tuesdays, 2/6 to 3/27, 6-7:30 p.m., at the Whitfield-Manjiro Museum, 11 Cherry St., Fairhaven.** **Cost: \$87**, includes book and handouts. 10 slots available, so sign up soon.

Contact Gerry Rooney at [Gerry@WMFriendshipHouse.org](mailto:Gerry@WMFriendshipHouse.org) or call 508-858-5303 (leave message). To enroll, send name, email (or snail mail) and fee of \$87 (make check out to WMFS), to Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society, 11 Cherry St., Fairhaven, MA 02719.

## Comedy for a Cause

Four local women comedians with national recognition are coming to the South Coast on February 10, 2018 to raise money for women and girls. The Women's Fund of Southeastern Massachusetts presents "Stand Up For Women," a fun and laughter-filled fundraiser with headliner Kelly MacFarland, a comic selected for the Boston Comedy Festival, who was seen on Comedy Central's Premium Blend. She will be joined by Andrea Henry from Last Comic Standing and Nickelodeon's Search for America's Funniest Mom, and local comic Marie Forster.

**The event will take place at the Seaport Inn & Marina Grand Ballroom at 110 Middle St., in Fairhaven Sat., 2/10, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

To purchase tickets, visit <http://www.womensfundsema.org/events>.

Light appetizers and a cash bar will be provided in addition to a silent auction and raffle. Proceeds from the event will go to the Women's Fund of Southeastern Massachusetts.

To learn more please visit [www.womensfundsema.org](http://www.womensfundsema.org).

## Friendly Farm robbery suspect sought

*Press Release*

Fairhaven Police responded to a reported armed robbery that occurred at the Friendly Farm convenience store, located at 121 Scoticut Neck Road. Just after 12:30 pm on Monday 1/29, a white male entered the store brandishing a large knife. The suspect demanded money from the clerk while brandishing the knife. He then fled from the store on foot with an

undisclosed amount of cash.

The suspect partially concealed his face with his sweatshirt prior to entering the store. He is described as a white male in his mid twenties, approximately 140 pounds, 5'2" to 5'4" in height, wearing a grey sweatshirt over a grey hooded sweatshirt, blue jeans and a black ball cap. The knife used by the suspect is described as a large hunting style knife.

The entire incident was captured on video surveillance. No one was injured during the robbery.

If anyone has any information about this case or if anyone recognizes the suspect, they are encouraged to please contact Fairhaven Police Detectives at 508-997-7421. Callers can remain anonymous.



Fairhaven police are looking for this man, who was captured on surveillance video robbing the clerk at the Friendly Farm Convenience store in on Scoticut Neck Road. If you recognize him, contact Fairhaven PD at 508-997-7421. *Photos submitted by Fairhaven PD.*

## Coast Guard rescues four in Maine after skiff capsizes

*Press Release*

The Coast Guard rescued four people Tuesday, 1/30, after a 14-foot skiff capsized in Deep Cove near Eastport, Maine, sending five people into the 39 degree water.

A good Samaritan called 911 at about 2 p.m. to report the capsizing, and said four people were in the water in need of rescue and a fifth had

swam to shore.

The information was relayed to the watchstanders at Coast Guard Station Eastport who immediately launched a 29-foot response boat crew to help.

A 45-foot response boat crew from Station Eastport was already underway and diverted to the area to assist.

Crewmembers aboard the 45-foot response boat quickly arrived on scene and found one man on top of the overturned skiff, and two men and one woman holding onto it in the water.

The Coast Guard members pulled the four people aboard the response boat and took them to shore where they transferred their care to Down-east Emergency Medical Services personnel.

"The people we rescued today are fortunate that a person observed them capsizing and called for help," said Petty Officer 1st Class Nathan Holt, the executive petty officer of Station Eastport. "Because we already had a boat crew training nearby, our response time was significantly decreased. None of the people in the cold water were wearing life jackets or dry suits, so getting them out of the water quickly was critical. We very strongly recommend mariners wear weather-appropriate protective gear when boating in cold weather, as hypothermia can occur in minutes."

Another boater towed the capsized skiff to the Federal Marine Terminal in Eastport. ●●●



A Coast Guard 45-foot rescue boat crew from Station Eastport transfers four survivors to Emergency Medical Services personnel, Tuesday, January 30, 2018, in Eastport, Maine. The Coast Guard crew rescued the four people after their 14-foot skiff capsized in Deep Cove near Eastport. *U.S Coast Guard photos.*

## Mattapoissett Woman's Club



Kathy McAuliffe, President of the Mattapoissett Woman's Club introduces Mr. James P. Stevens, CEO and Founder of The GiftsToGive Philanthropy Factory to the membership and guests at their January 18, 2018 meeting. *Submitted photo.*



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## Fairhaven gets new ambulance



The Fairhaven Fire Department recently took delivery of a brand new 2017 Horton Emergency Ambulance. The new ambulance will replace a 2002 Ambulance that has been retired and taken out of service. Fairhaven currently runs three Advanced Life Support Ambulances staffed with Paramedic & EMT/Firefighters. The new ambulance was purchased by the town at a cost of \$259,000 from Greenwood Motors in Attleboro, Mass. Some of its features are: four wheel drive, hydraulic-assisted patient loading system, as well as a host of state-of-the-art medical equipment. Once in service it will be the primary ambulance to respond to all EMS calls in the town. Fairhaven answers over 3,000 emergency medical services calls per year. *Photos by Ed Pepin, Fairhaven Fire Department Photographer.*



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## Black Hist. Month

Several events and exhibits will mark Black History Month 2018 in New Bedford throughout February, with added events to honor the bicentennial of the birth of Frederick Douglass.

To honor Douglass, the New Bedford Historical Society and New Bedford Free Public Library will give out **free copies of the book "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself,"** to the first 200 New Bedford library cardholders interested in February. Copies will be available at each branch, as part of the New Bedford Historical Society's Douglass Project 2018.

Throughout the month, City Hall hosts an art exhibit celebrating Black History Month in the Ashley Room, by artist and curator Alison Wells. The opening reception for the exhibit, with refreshments and an opportunity to meet the artist, is during **AHA! Night on Thurs., 2/8, from 6-8 p.m.**

The New Bedford Historical Society hosts its 18th Annual **Frederick Douglass Read-a-thon at the First Unitarian Church at 71 Eighth Street on Sunday, February 11, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.** Douglass, a noted abolitionist who escaped from slavery himself, arrived in New Bedford in 1838 at the age of 20, shortly after his escape, and found a welcoming community in the city.

Other events include a 200th Birthday Celebration for Frederick Douglass hosted by the Frederick Douglass Unity House at UMass Dartmouth on Wednesday, February 14, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. as well as a **Cultural Connections Concert with the African Children's Choir, South Coast Children's Chorus and New Bedford Public Schools' Carney Academy Select Chorus at Keith Middle School on Saturday, February 24, at 7:00 p.m. Concert tickets are \$15 for general admission; \$10 for students/seniors.**

More information about the events as well as ongoing Douglass Project 2018 events throughout the year are available at [www.destinationnewbedford.org/black-history-month/](http://www.destinationnewbedford.org/black-history-month/) or [www.nbhistoricalociety.org](http://www.nbhistoricalociety.org).

## 3 Short Plays

Culture\*Park Theatre will present readings of three contrasting short

plays selected from past Short Plays Marathons, by award-winning regional playwrights, **at the Rotch Jones Duff House in New Bedford, on AHA! Night, February 8, 2018.** Each play runs approx 10 - 15 minutes. Free.

**The evening begins at 6 p.m.** The Line-up: Adam's First Job, by Ray Veary, with Michael Thibeault, Harvey Ussach and Ray Veary. A comedic short play set in the Garden of Eden, pre-Eve! Eleanor and Millicent, by Vickie Joseph, with Nancy Leary and Patricia Thomas. Two Life-long friends. Two lobsters. What's next? Leavetaking, by Barbara Schweitzer, with Nancy Leary and Ray Veary. Companions learn ever-more about each other.

## YTI Plays

As its 71st Season's second special attraction, Your Theatre, Inc. will present two one-act plays **Thursday through Saturday, February 1, 2 and 3 at 7:30 PM and Sunday, February 4 at 2:30 PM.**

Lawrence R. Houbre, Jr. of New Bedford will direct Joseph Bologna's and Rene Taylor's delightful comedy "Mr. Lewis And Mrs. Wexel." Edward J. Maguire of Fairhaven will direct William Saroyan's touching drama ""Hello Out There."

### Mr. Lewis And Mrs. Wexel Warm Hearted Comedy

A widower invites a widow who lives in the same Florida senior citizen center, up to his apartment to see his fish. What happens next will delight and surprise the audience, who will enjoy this brief but very humorous comedy. H. B. Ussach of New Bedford will appear as Mr. Lewis; Cheryl Day of Fairhaven as Mrs. Wexel.

### Hello Out There Heart Wrenching Drama

Photo Finish, an itinerant young gambler, is falsely arrested and jailed in a small Texas town. The only one who hears his call for justice and understanding is Emily, a young girl who cooks for the prisoners, who tries to aid in his escape before a lynching mob breaks into the jail.

Daniel Gabriel Sallom of New Bedford will appear as Photo Finish, Briana Berthiaume of New Bedford as Emily, and Nick Le Blanc of New Bedford as the alleged Wronged Husband, and Dennis Smith of

Tiverton, RI as the jailer, with Melanie Crowther of Fairhaven as the accusing wife.

Performances are held at the wheelchair accessible Your Theatre, Inc. Playhouse located at 136 Rivet St. (corner of County St.), New Bedford, at St. Martin's Episcopal Church complex. Free off-street parking entrance is on County Street.

**Tickets are \$12 general admission, \$8 for season subscribers, and \$10 for Members Council Members, senior citizens, students, and military personnel.** For further information call Your Theatre, Inc. at 508-993-0772, or send an email to [info@yourtheatre.org](mailto:info@yourtheatre.org). The theatre's web site is [www.yourtheatre.org](http://www.yourtheatre.org)

Your Theatre, Inc. is grateful to our 71st Season Sponsor, Bank5, for their sixth year of strong support.

## Local History Disc.

Historians, archivists, curators, historic preservationists, collectors, and other experts will discuss a variety of topics in front of an audience at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, 18 Johnny Cake Hill, during Local History Guild conversations on New Bedford's AHA! nights. Curator of Maritime History at the Whaling Museum, will moderate the Local History Guild conversations, which run from 6 pm to 7 pm and include a question and answer period. The events are free and open to the public. Advance registration is not required. For info call 508-997-0046 or visit [www.whalingmuseum.org](http://www.whalingmuseum.org).

Trends, initiatives, projects, and issues to be discussed at future Local History Guild gatherings will run the gamut from commercial fishing to historic houses, to the latest acquisitions, collections, publications, and digital resources. The moderated conversations will take place in the Whaling Museum's Gratia Houghton Rinehart Gallery, which houses the exhibition Energy and Enterprise: Industry and the City of New Bedford.

**February 8, 6 pm:** Robert Harding, Ph.D., from the Dartmouth Historical and Arts Society, and Richard Gifford independent scholar from Westport will discuss *The Westport and Dartmouth Milieu in the Age of Paul Cuffe*.

cont'd next page

## STILL OVERTOWN

**March 8, 6 pm:** Marjorie O'Toole, Director of the Little Compton Historical Society, and Jeffrey Miller, Ph.D., Director and Curator of the Mattapoissett Historical Society will discuss *Common Lives in the Coastal Region: Interpretive Patterns for Historical Societies*.

### Public Skate

**From Friday, February 9th to Sunday, February 11th, FMC Ice Sports will be hosting a weekend long USA Public Skate event at Hetland Arena in New Bedford, MA.** Come celebrate all things USA at this special public skate for a chance to win prizes and giveaways. The times for the themed skates are: **FRIDAY, Feb. 9, 8:00PM – 9:50PM; SUNDAY, Feb. 11, 2:10PM – 4:00PM**

**General admission is \$5 per person and rental skates are available for an additional \$5 on a first-come, first-served basis.** For more information, please visit the rink's official website, [www.fmcicesports.com](http://www.fmcicesports.com) or call 1-888-74-SKATE.

Hetland Arena is located at 310 Hathaway Blvd in New Bedford, MA and is a Commonwealth of Mass. public ice skating facility, overseen by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and managed by FMC Ice Sports.

### Spaghetti Supper

Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Annual Valentine Spaghetti Supper and raffle. Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert, beverages. **Sat. 2/10, 6 p.m. Donation: adults, \$10;**

**children \$5. Pilgrim Church Home, 634 Purchase St., N.B** Proceeds benefit Holiday Meals at soup kitchen. Reservations: 508-996-1498

### DMF office moving

The New Bedford office of the Division of Marine Fisheries is moving from 1213 Purchase Street, New Bedford to **836 South Rodney French Boulevard, New Bedford**. As of Thursday, 2/1, walk-in permitting and most other services will only be available at 836 South Rodney French Boulevard. The New Bedford office main phone number will remain the same, (508) 990-2860.

For more information on the Division of Marine Fisheries, visit <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/division-of-marine-fisheries>

## HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

### Free Movie

**Monday, February 5th, 12:15 p.m.** *The Bishop's Wife*. at Acushnet COA. See page 16.

### Author Talk

Ripped from the Headlines and the Walls of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum: The Acushnet Public Library Welcomes Pulitzer Prize-winning Author Stephen A. Kurkjian.

**Join us for an author talk on Wednesday, February 21 @ 6 pm. This free event will take place in the Library Community Room at 232 Middle RD, Acushnet, MA 02743.**

Pulitzer Prize winning author, Stephen A Kurkjian will visit the Acushnet Public Library and speak about his book "Master Thieves: The Boston Gangsters Who Pulled Off the World's Greatest Art Heist". His book has been said to be the most complete account of the 1990 theft from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. As an investigative reporter for the Boston Globe he has great knowledge of the suspects, motives and details of this still unsolved theft. Come learn about his insights into the theft of over \$500 million dollars of artworks and the thieves who are still at large.

Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Brazilian director Jose Padilha has come on board to develop the art

heist drama "Master Thieves" as a possible feature film for Sony.

### Nomination papers

Acushnet will hold annual town elections on Mon., 4/2/18. Nomination Papers are available for anyone interested in running for office. Call 508-998-0215. See page 16 for more.

### Itty Bitty Explorers

Get outside with your little ones this February during Itty Bitty Bay Explorers, a series of four free outings on Wednesday mornings with the Buzzards Bay Coalition. Through fun games and hands-on activities, your family will learn all about animals and their habitats around Buzzards Bay.

**On Feb. 7, explore birds and their habitats** at The Sawmill (32 Mill Rd., Acushnet). **On Feb. 14, learn all about invertebrates** by collecting shells at West Island Town Beach (2 Fir St., Fairhaven). **On Feb. 21, find out where all of our furry mammal friends go in the winter** at LaPalme Farm (Blain St., Acushnet). And on **Feb. 28, discover what makes fish different from other animals** at The Sawmill (32 Mill Rd., Acushnet). All programs run from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Itty Bitty Bay Explorers is recommended for **families with children aged five and younger**. We encourage you to attend all four programs, but it is not required.

Registration is required for each program. To RSVP, visit [www.savebuzzardsbay.org/events/](http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org/events/) or contact the Buzzards Bay Coalition at (508) 999-6363 ext. 219 or [bayadventures@savebuzzardsbay.org](mailto:bayadventures@savebuzzardsbay.org)

### Saturday at Sawmill

Let nature inspire you to create the perfect Valentine for a person you love! Join the Buzzards Bay Coalition for **Saturday at The Sawmill on Feb. 3 at 11:00 a.m.** for a short family walk to explore local wildlife and find materials to create a Valentine from nature.

In addition to the walk and nature Valentines program, The Sawmill's Hawes Family Learning Center will be open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., when you can explore the learning center and speak with Coalition educators about the park and its restoration.

To learn more and register for the family program, visit <http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org/events/saturday-at-the-sawmill-nature-valentines-feb-03-2018/> or contact the Buzzards Bay Coalition at (508) 999-6363 ext. 219.

This program is part of Discover Buzzards Bay, a resource to find unique and exciting ways to explore the outdoors, get some exercise and connect with nature. To learn more, visit [savebuzzardsbay.org/discover](http://savebuzzardsbay.org/discover). Discover Buzzards Bay is sponsored by Southcoast Health.

## Recipe of the Week

### Rosie's Jag

2 cups rice  
1 can beans, drained, shell, lima, string, etc.  
1 med. onion, chopped  
2 cups water  
Dash black pepper  
1 tbsp oil  
1/2 tsp paprika

Sauté onions in oil, add paprika, salt, pepper, beans and water; allow to boil.

Rinse rice and add to water mixture. Remove from high heat to medium-low and cook until rice is done. Turn with fork to mix all ingredients together.

*Submitted by Rose Fontes*

### To share a recipe with your neighbors

Mail to 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719; fax to 508-991-5580; email to [neighbnews@comcast.net](mailto:neighbnews@comcast.net) (Email preferred)

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## 40th anniversary of the Great Blizzard of 1978

### Send in your photos and stories

Where were you during the infamous Great Blizzard of 1978, the storm to which all other storms since have been compared?

We want your stories, photos, letters, and recollections.

The blizzard hit on February 6, 1978, and businesses started sending people home early, but it was still too late. Snow fell at more than an inch per hour and thousands of people got stranded on the highways. More than 3,000 cars and 500 trucks got stuck on Route 128 alone. Snow drifts completely covered cars. Fourteen people died from carbon monoxide poisoning as they sat in their cars trying to stay warm.

Huge waves and high tides devastated shoreside communities all over Massachusetts.

If you have a story and/or a photo (or a few) to share, please email [NeighbNews@comcast.net](mailto:NeighbNews@comcast.net), or call 508-979-5593, to arrange scanning and pick-up.

**DEADLINE:** 2/9/18. We are hoping to run this special feature in our 2/15/18 issue.

## Snow parking ban in Fairhaven

No vehicles shall be permitted to remain on the hydrant side of all streets in Fairhaven from December 1 to March 31 from midnight to 8:00 am and also during the time of any snowfall or snow removal operations. On streets with no hydrants, NO vehicles shall be permitted to remain either on the east side of streets running north and south or on the north side of streets running east and west.

The BPW is authorized to remove, or cause to be removed, to some convenient place, including a public garage, any vehicle interfering with the work of removing or plowing snow or ice from any way, and the cost of such removal with all storage charges resulting there from shall be paid by the owner of such vehicle.

The Fairhaven Police Department will strictly enforce this Parking Ban. Violators will be towed and/or ticketed. By Order of Fairhaven Board of Public Works.



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Fri., 2/2: Train Wreck, 7 p.m.  
Sat., 2/3: Green Season, 9 p.m.  
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# Rainy weather doesn't stop plungers for rescheduled event

By Beth David  
Editor

The weather gods delivered a mixed bag to the plungers at Sunday's annual Polar Plunge at Fort Phoenix in Fairhaven. Rescheduled from January 1 because of dangerously cold temperatures and wind, the plunge was held Sunday, 1/28, with the temperature at 45 degrees, the water at 37, and steady rain.

Several hundred people showed up for the morning event. How many would actually jump in the cold water, however, was anyone's guess.

This year's theme was "your favorite Disney character," and people were encouraged to dress up accordingly. Sharks and mermaids and Minnie Mouse were among the famous participants.

Music from various Disney movies, including Julie Andrews singing "A Spoonful of Sugar," rang through the air.

Then the countdown, and everyone ran in...and then out.

The annual event, in its 17th year, is held in honor of local domestic violence victims.

Zachary Guillotte, 17, said he was there because his friend, Aubrey Stalter, 17, made him do it. The two attend Fairhaven High School together.

Ms. Stalter said she has been participating in the plunge for six years.

"Because it's a good cause, and it's something fun to do," she said. "I think it's fun."

Mr. Guillotte said he was not

worried about how he would react to the cold water.

"I've jumped in cold water before," he said, but, he added, that was his friend's swimming pool, not the Atlantic Ocean.

Ramona Rodriguez, 60, was there with her sons, Khalil Rodriguez, 36, and Niheem Islam, 33, who have been participating for a few years.

They said they did it because Ms. Rodriguez suffered domestic violence herself.

"It's a great cause," said Khalil. "It unites us as a family and kind of washes those memories away."

Ramona said she had to have surgery due to her injuries.

"He's gone," she said of her abuser, who spent eight years in prison for the attacks.

"I like the cause," said Niheem, adding they did it together to support his mother. "Because I saw my mom being abused."

"My legs are numb" said Elaine Olifierko after she got out of the water. "It's biting. My legs are absolutely numb."

She jumped in to join her sister, Mary Ann Walker.

Ms. Walker said she has been plunging for years because it is for Domestic Violence awareness. She said she knew Nancy Schonheinz of Fairhaven, who was killed by her boyfriend in 2000 when he stabbed her 44 times. The first plunge was started in her name, and went for ten years. Then a new group took over in 2010.



She said she appreciated her sister joining her, and that everyone needs to keep doing whatever is necessary to bring awareness to the issue of domestic violence.

"Because it will never stop," she said.

And, having her sister dive in with her, "means a lot."

"Well, I'm thrilled," said Ms. Olifierko, although the sincerity of that statement was seriously in doubt.

Anyone who still wishes to contribute may buy a t-shirt at Days Sports in Fairhaven.



TOP, L-R: Khalil Rodriguez, Ramona Rodriguez, and Niheem Islam look nice and warm before jumping into the chilly 37-degree water at Fort Phoenix on Sunday, 1/28/18, for the annual Polar Plunge. LEFT: Members of the Buzzards Bay Rowing Club pose with the Fort Phoenix Polar Bear before plunging into the chilly Atlantic. RIGHT: Elaine Olifierko and her sister Mary Ann Walker, pose in triumph with the Fort Phoenix Polar Bear at the annual Polar Plunge on Sunday, 1/28/18. Photos by Beth David.

## More scenes from the Polar Plunge

The annual Polar Plunge went on as planned amid mild temperatures and rainy weather on Sunday, 1/28, at Fort Phoenix in Fairhaven. The event was postponed from January 1, it's usual date, due to extremely cold temperatures and high winds. See page 12 for story. Photos this page by Glenn C. Silva.



# Fairhaven Recreation Center

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## Kool Kids February Vacation

This 4 day program is a great opportunity to make new friends while participating in fun group activities such as pillo polo, floor hockey, dodge ball, cooperative games, flag football, arts & crafts, etc. Kids will need to bring their own lunch for the first 3 days of the program. The last day is a pizza lunch. Come ready to have fun! Sneakers and active clothes must be worn each day. Kids will be grouped according to their current grade in school. Grades: K-5 Dates: 2/20/16-2/23/16 Time: Drop off between 8-8:15, pick up by 3 PM Instructors: Staff Cost: Member \$100 Non Member \$125

## Body Pump

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Ages:16-Adult Days/Time: Tues/  
Thurs 6:45-7:45PM Cost: \$50  
Member/\$75 Non Member Start Date:  
January 2nd, 10 weeks End Date:  
March 8th Instructor: Julie Baiardi

## Cardio Mix

Start off your class with a 15 minute cardio warm-up that leads into a 45-minute total body toning workout:arms, legs & abs. You name it, we work it The class incorporates the use of hand weights, balance ball and floor work. (Students must bring their own hand weights up to 8 lbs. and a balance ball) Ages: 16-adult Start Date: January 9th /10 weeks End Date: March 13th Day: Tuesday & Thursday Instructor: Nancy Gibeau Time: 5:30-6:30PM

Cost: \$50Member/\$75 Non Member

# Fairhaven Senior Center

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## Mall Trips

2/7: Twin Rivers 2/21: South Shore Plaza  
2/14: Prov. Place Mall & Whole Foods 2/28: Hyannis Mall, Xmas shop, Trader

## Entertainment: 12:30-2:30 p.m.

1/18 Ray J • 1/25 Ray J • 1/31 D&D

## Special Activities

### Bereavement Educational Support Group

Pathways through Grief will be held on Mondays for 6 weeks beginning March 19th through April 23th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Fairhaven Senior Center. This educational Program will help adult participants to gain skills to cope with challenges of grieving.

If interested in attending, please contact Bereavement Coordinator John Rider at 508-324-1900 extension 104. This program will be offered at no cost and will be limited to no more than 12 participants.

### Weather Cancellations

If we have any amount of snow accumulation, there will be no shopping that day and activities may be cancelled. Call the Senior Center (508-979-4029) to confirm. So please, stock up on non-perishable food items. If the Town Hall is closed because of bad weather, the Fairhaven Senior Center will also be closed

### Computer Technology for Seniors

Monday, Jan.15th, Friday, Jan.19th  
9:30-10:30 a.m. *Computer/Software,  
Windows 10.* Instructor Kraig Perry.  
Monday, Jan. 22nd and Friday, Jan.

26th 9:30-10:30 a.m. *Ins and outs of  
E-Mail.* Wednesday, Jan.31st 9:30-  
10:30 a.m. *Connect on Facebook.*  
Space is limited to 15 participants.  
Please call the Fairhaven Senior  
Center to sign up at (508-979-4029).

### AARP Drivers Safety Training

Fairhaven Council on Aging,  
Monday, February 5th, 12:00-4:30 p.m.  
**\$15.00 for AARP Members/\$20.00 for  
non Members.** Checks made to AARP  
Drivers Training.The training enables  
drivers to refresh their driving skills  
and understand how to adjust to age-  
related challenges such as hearing,  
vision, and reaction time. Please call  
the Fairhaven Senior Center to sign  
up at (508-979-4029).

### General Loss and Grief Support Group

Third Tuesday of the month, 5:00-  
6:30 pm at The Fairhaven Senior  
Center, The Grief Support Group is  
facilitated by trained grief  
professionals from Southcoast VNA  
and is offered to provide the  
opportunity to gather with others  
who are grieving the death of a loved  
one. To register, please call South-  
coast VNA Bereavement Services at  
508-973-3227.

## Ongoing Programs

### Call 508-979-4029 for days and times

A/G Consumer Mediator; Bingo; Board Meeting/monthly; Bridge; Caregiver Support & Education Group; Chair Yoga, Computer Training; Fit Quest; Friends of Elderly/monthly meeting; Grocery Shopping; LGBT Supper Club; Line Dancing; Live Band; Medical Transportation; Nutrition Program/ meal served; Osteoporosis class; Outreach Coordinator; PACE Fuel Assistance; Pitch; Reassurance Program; Shopping; Singles Senior Supper Club; Supportive Senior Social Day Program; Tai Chi; Tap 'N' Time, Walking Clubs, Zumba.

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# Acushnet News

## Nomination papers available until Feb. 8

Acushnet will hold annual town elections on Mon., 4/2/18. Nomination Papers are available for anyone interested in running for office.

**Thursday, February 8, 2018, at 5 p.m. is the last day to take out nomination papers.** Nomination papers are furnished only to candidates or to their representatives presenting signed authorization.

**NUMBER OF SIGNATURES:** Not less than THIRTY-ONE (31). Must be signed by Registered Voters in person.

Monday, February 12, 2018, 5 p.m.: Last day and hour to submit Nomination Papers to the Board of Registrars for certification of signatures.

Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 5 p.m.: Last day and hour to file an objection or withdraw nomination by filing with Town Clerk a Written Request over a signature which has been duly acknowledged before a Notary Public.

Tuesday, March 13, 2018: Last day and hour to REGISTER AS A VOTER.

POLLS OPEN AT 10 A.M. AND REMAIN OPEN UNTIL 8 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY. Call (508)998-0215

Expiring terms and incumbents are: Kevin Gaspar, Selectboard member; Mathew Lopes, Assessor; David Davignon, Board of Health; Ivo Almeida, Commissioner of Trust Funds; Bryan Deschamps, Planning Commissioner; Paul Fortin, Cemetery Board; Jean Stripinis and Diane Ferreira, Library Trustees; Chad Leclair, Park Commissioner; Nicholas Gomes, Town Moderator, for an unexpired term ending 4/6/20.

Voters will also be asked to pick a second Park Commissioner to fill an unexpired term ending on 4/6/20.

The School Committee also will

have two seats on the ballot. One expires this year, and one is the remainder of an unexpired term that ends on 4/1/19.

## Free Movie

**Monday, February 5th, 12:15 p.m.** *The Bishop's Wife.* Grab your snacks and join us at the Acushnet COA, 59 1/2 So. Main St., for a screening of this movie about an Episco-pal Bishop, Henry Brougham, who has been working on the plans for an elaborate new cathedral which he hopes will be paid for primarily by a wealthy, stubborn widow. He is losing sight of his family and of why he became a churchman in the first place. Enter Dudley, an angel sent to help him. Dudley does help everyone he meets, but not necessarily in the way they would have preferred. Cary Grant, Loretta Young, David Niven.

## Bruins PJ Drive

The Acushnet Public Library has

teamed up with the Boston Bruins to participate in their annual pajama drive to benefit DCF Kids and Cradles to Crayons. The PJ Drive's goal is to collect 15,000 pairs of new pajamas for children and teens in need.

The Boston Bruins PJ Drive runs **through March 15.** The library will be collecting new pairs of pajamas for babies, children and

teens. Drop off the pajamas during normal library hours or attend our Pajama Story Time on Thursday, February 22, 2018 @ 6 pm. Wear your PJs to this popular children's event and bring along a pair for a child in need. For more information please visit [acupl.org](http://acupl.org).

DCF estimates that at any given time the agency is working with 45,000 babies, children and teens. DCF's participation helps ensure that PJs stay in the area in which they were collected, benefitting local kids and teens.

Participating libraries will compete with other organizations for special Bruins prizes including a street hockey clinic with Bruins Mascot Blades and autographed Bruins items.

The Mass. Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) works with the Boston Bruins to coordinate

ACUSH: cont'd on page 21

## CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING



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Since December 2016 the Acushnet Fire & EMS Department has made an effort to bring Carbon Monoxide detection to as many homes as possible. The results so far: 86 homes visited, of which 53 had no CO detectors; 179 detectors installed. Firefighters made sure that these 86 homes were code compliant with regards to smoke and CO detector placement and operation. When we enter a house for a fire or EMS call we ask. If the answer is no, we act. *Text and image from Acushnet Fire & EMS Facebook page.*



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# Snow Day!



A snowstorm on Tuesday, 1/30, closed Fairhaven, Acushnet and Dartmouth Schools. New Bedford delayed opening for two hours. Fairhaven got 3.8" of snow, New Bedford got 7.5", but Acushnet hit the jackpot with 8". The temperatures were seasonably cold in the low 30s, with a few dips into the 20's, but not enough to keep Jack Quinting, and the Hooley siblings and their friend Mischa Tomasia from taking advantage of the sledding possibilities at Fort Phoenix. ABOVE LEFT: Jack Quintin gets some snowboarding in at Fort Phoenix on Tuesday, 1/30/18, after school was cancelled because of a snowstorm. ABOVE MIDDLE: Abby Hooley leads the way followed by Mischa Tomasia sledding at Fort Phoenix. Jackson Hooley makes a snow angel at Fort Phoenix. BELOW LEFT: Olivia Hooley sits in front while Abby Hooley pulls up the rear sledding down the hill at Fort Phoenix. BELOW RIGHT: L-R: Abby Hooley, Mischa Tomasia, Olivia Hooley and Jackson Hooley take a break from sledding to pose for the local free sheet at Fort Phoenix on Tuesday, 1/30/18. *Photos by Glenn C. Silva.*



# Notes from the Visitors Center

by *Chris Richard*  
**Director of Tourism**

February 2018

Greetings.

My big news from the past month is that I have begun to promote the new Huttleston Marketplace, a weekly bazaar of arts, crafts, antiques & collectibles, and more, which will be held on the lawn of the Visitors Center on Saturdays starting in mid-June. And vendors are starting to sign up!

The marketplace will run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. every Saturday from June 16 to September 1, including the day of the Homecoming Day Fair, June 30. During the marketplace the Fairhaven Historical Society will have volunteers on hand to open the museum upstairs in the Academy Building. (Get in touch with a Historical Society member if you are interested in volunteering for that.) And on Homecoming Saturday, there will be tours at Fairhaven High School.

There will be several categories of vendors allowed at Huttleston Marketplace. They are A) Arts, crafts, photography; B) antiques, vintage collectibles; C) used books; D) whole, fresh farm produce, plants; E) local prepared foods. There are guidelines for each category to insure the quality of the products sold. (Crafts must be handmade, etc.) Because Fairhaven's Sunday Farmers Market will no longer be held, it's possible that some of the farmers will move to the Huttleston Marketplace on Saturdays. Vendors have the option of setting up on specific weeks at \$20/week or they can sign up for the whole 12-week season for \$150. It's a very reasonable cost for a booth space in such an attractive and high visibility location.

Since I began promoting the marketplace with emails, on social media, and in the local press, the response has been positive. Already, a few vendors are signed up. When I get a few more, I'll start mentioning names. If you know of anyone who might want to set up a booth, have them get in touch with me using the contact information at the end of this column. Or they can visit the website at <http://fairhaventours.com/huttleston-marketplace/> and download the vendor guidelines and application form. There's not really a deadline for

applying, but the earlier I know, the more publicity the vendors get.

In January I also finalized a date for a lecture to be presented by the Fairhaven Historical Society. On Friday, March 16, I'll be talking about Fairhaven's Pilgrim, John Cooke, at the Town Hall auditorium. The 400th anniversary of the Mayflower landing is coming up in 2020, and the Historical Society wants to get a jump on the celebration by promoting the one original Pilgrim to settle in the "Old Dartmouth" territory. Cooke lived in what's now North Fairhaven until his death in 1695, at which time he had been the last surviving male passenger of the Mayflower's 1620 voyage. (Who was the last female Pilgrim? Come to the lecture to find out.)

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In other news, I've begun going through the 28-page Visitors Guide book and marking changes that will be made for the next printing in the spring. A few things need to be taken out of the book. The Church of the Good Shepherd has closed, for example, and there's no more Farmers Market on Sundays. There are changes — the Old Stone Schoolhouse will not have regular open hours this summer. And other things will be added — National Night Out, the Huttleston Marketplace, perhaps the opening of the museum at the boyhood home of Joseph Bates Jr. As we get closer to spring, I will check to see if there are any changes to the fees for parking at West Island Town Beach and the boat landings. Each year I try to have the most up-to-date information to hand out to people who are visiting town or who are making plans to visit.

Speaking of plans, we're going to be the meeting place of Marine Corps

League of Massachusetts in June. The group will be meeting at the Seaport Inn and is scheduling other activities in town. We're also going to be getting a visit from the Vintage Motor Car Club of America during its week-long Heritage Tour of the area. They will be arriving in their vintage cars to explore the town's history. That's also in June. And, to add yet another group in June, it's a pretty good bet the Delano Kindred, Inc. will hold its annual meeting here. The Delanos have met here before in 1998 and 2012, since Fairhaven was the home of one of the major lines of the family — in fact, the line that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt belonged to. It's great to see all of these groups making plans to come to Fairhaven.

There will be other, smaller groups visiting town, too. Some will take guided walking tours with me or with Bob Foster. Others will explore on their own. Generally there are several school groups that take field trips to Fort Phoenix, too. I expect soon I'll be hearing from the Old Hammondtown School in Mattapoisett, the Acushnet Elementary School, and others in the area. Lately the schools have been seeing the Pirates and Privateers Presentation at the fort.

Groups of home-schooled children come to see that as well. Besides being educational, it's a very fun program for everyone, including me.

As this month goes on, I'll also start working on the summertime Monday Morning Fun schedule. I can't believe this will be the fourth year the Office of Tourism holds these July and August programs. Where does time go?

Speaking of time, it's time to wrap up the column for this month. As always, please feel free to pass along your comments or suggestions. You can contact me via email at [FairhavenTours@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:FairhavenTours@fairhaven-ma.gov), by calling 508-979-4085, or by stopping by the Visitors Center, 141 Main Street. The hours of the Office of Tourism are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with a half-hour break around noon. There are some reserved parking spaces in the high school lot closest to the Academy Building. ●●●

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## Public Hearings/ Legal Notices

*NOTE: All legal notices are available on the Neighb News website, [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com), under the "Legal Notices" tab on the top of the main page. Legal ads are also available at <http://masspublicnotices.org>, search under "Fairhaven Neighborhood News"*

### Town of Fairhaven Notice of Public Hearing FY 18 Community Development Block Grant Application

Town of Fairhaven will hold a Public Hearing at 6:45 P.M. on February 5, 2018, Town Hall, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA. The purpose of the hearing is to seek public comment on the Town's FY2018 CDBG application. The Town has decided to apply for funding for the Anthony School Target Area for the reconstruction of Hedge Street Phase 1 from the Acushnet River to the Cherry Street intersection. The Town intends to apply for up to \$800,000 for this project and general administration. The grant will be administered with private consultants. Any persons or organizations will be given the opportunity to be heard. The meeting room is handicap accessible and the Town will make reasonable accommodations for the disabled with prior notice to the Selectmen's Office.

*Robert Espindola, Chairman  
Fairhaven Board of Selectmen  
02/01/18*

**ACUSH: cont'd from page 16**

library participation in the drive. Libraries from around the state use the Massachusetts Library System's delivery service typically used to send books and other library materials, to send their PJs to area collection locations which increase libraries' ability to participate in the drive.

**SELLING SOMETHING? NEED TO PROMOTE YOUR SMALL BUSINESS? Place a classified ad!** Only \$7 for three lines, \$1 each additional line. Call Beth at 508-979-5593.

## HELP WANTED

**Director of Planning and Economic Development Town of Fairhaven** The Town of Fairhaven, Massachusetts (pop. 16,074), is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Director of Planning and Economic Development. Candidate must possess a thorough knowledge of the principles and practices of planning, economic development, land use regulations, strategic planning, grant administration and community relations. Candidate must have a Bachelor's degree in Planning, Public Administration, or related field and a minimum of three years of relevant municipal experience; or a Master's Degree in Planning, Public Administration, or related field and a minimum of three years of relevant municipal experience; or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience that enables performance of all aspects of the position. AICP certification is desirable. The salary range is \$71,744 to 84,752. Please submit cover letter, resume, and three references to Anne O'Brien, Human Resources Director, Town of Fairhaven, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719. A full job description can be found at [www.Fairhaven-MA.gov](http://www.Fairhaven-MA.gov). Application deadline is February 26, 2018. EOE

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## Fairhaven Meetings

### Board of Appeals

Tues., 2/6/18, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

### Board Of Public Works

Mon., 2/5, Arsene St., 6 p..

### Conservation Commission

Mon., 2/5, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Planning Board

Tues., 2/27 Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Roger School Study Comm

Thurs., 2/8, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### School Committee

Wed., 2/7, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

### Selectboard

Mon., 2/5, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Town Clerk Study Comm.

Tues., 2/6, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

## Acushnet Meetings

### Old Colony Dist. Sch. Com.

Wed., 2/7, ORR, 6 p.m.

### Planning Commission

Thurs., 2/15, Parting Ways, 6:30 p.m.

### Selectbord

Tues., 2/6, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

## TIDE TABLE

US Army Corps of Engineers, Cape Cod Canal/Wing's Neck

	Feb. 2018	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	1	0816	2044	0139*	1430*
Friday	2	0907	2135	0237*	1510*
Saturday	3	0955	2224	0322*	1545*
Sunday	4	1044	2315	0402*	1619*
Monday	5	1136	----	0443*	1658*
Tuesday	6	0009	1231	0534	1746
Wednesday	7	0102	1324	0811	1850
Thursday	8	0154	1416	0937	1953
Friday	9	0248	1515	1044	2240
Saturday	10	0349	1619	1137	2331
Sunday	11	0448	1714	----	1222
Monday	12	0535	1757	0006	1305
Tuesday	13	0615	1836	----	1343

\*= Predicted minus tides from -0.1 ft. to -1.0 ft  
\*\*Predicted minus tides from -1.1 ft to -2.0 ft or more

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## BPW: cont'd from page 3

Session. Then in open session it changed.

"We can only hire in open session," said Vinnie Furtado.

Mr. Hobson said that he understood that, but felt that the re-vote should have taken place at a regular meeting, not a special meeting three days later. And the vote changed.

Then, Town Counsel advised them to hold yet a third vote.

Mr. Hobson said he felt either Jeff Furtado or the other candidate would both be a good choice for the job.

"I know I made up my mind," he said, making it clear he would not change his vote, even if people spoke. "What I did, I thought was best for the town. If either person gets it, I'll be happy."

Mr. Wotton said the subcommittee did a lot of work to find the right candidate, and seemed to say that Vinnie Furtado made it clear he wanted Jeff for the job. Mr. Wotton said it was the first "handpicked" person that Vinnie got to choose and that he was trusted to run the department, and chose the most qualified person to run the water department.

Board member Keith Silvia said he agreed with Mr. Hobson.

"Let's get this going," he said.

Mr. Durant said it was simple: The board made a mistake on the meeting posting.

Mr. Ristuccia noted that there had been a lot of "back and forth" about the issue in the last few weeks.

"I take my job here very seriously," said Mr. Ristuccia. "I do what's best for the town first, not what's best for me."

He said he had to stand back and consider who it would be most comfortable for the board and Vinnie Furtado to work with.

"Because ultimately, it's his responsibility," said Mr. Ristuccia, although he also added that it does not mean he would simply vote how the PW superintendent wants.

Mr. Wotton made the motion to hire Jeff Furtado, Mr. Durant seconded the motion; and the vote was the same as the last time, 3-2 in favor of Jeff, with Mr. Hobson and Mr. Silvia not voting yes.

"I think the five of you should be ashamed of yourselves. You have the public here and you didn't want to hear from the public because of what could possibly have been said," said Selectboard member Daniel Freitas, who used to be a BPW member. "What you've done tonight is not let

democracy work."

He said there was a lot more to the story than what the board said in the meeting, and that people showed up because they wanted to speak, and the board "stifled" that.

"Whether they wanted to speak for or against, you stopped that," said Mr. Freitas. "So I will say, 'shame on you.'"

Mr. Wotton said there were two other meetings when people could have gone to weigh in.

"Not one, single person came forward," said Mr. Wotton, reminding him that this was the third one.

Mr. Freitas countered that no one went to the other meetings because one was posted as executive session, and the second one did not say there would be a vote. And that is why they had to hold the third meeting.

"You guys have stifled this from the very beginning. You're not holding this meeting because you want to. You're

---

I absolutely one-hundred-percent wrote that letter and I stand by it [Selectboard member Daniel Freitas]

---

holding this meeting because you have to," said Mr. Freitas, adding that they violated open meeting laws more than once. "And tonight, you've done it again."

While he was speaking, a woman interjected, asking Mr. Freitas if he wrote the letter, referring to an unsigned letter that was making the rounds behind the scenes disparaging Jeff Furtado's character and saying he could not handle the stress of the job.

"I absolutely one-hundred-percent wrote that letter and I stand by it," said Mr. Freitas.

He said he also had heard that Jeff Furtado left work early that day to see an attorney and threatened to sue anyone who spoke against him at the meeting. He asked the board if Jeff had left work early, but it is unclear if the board answered him.

"Absolutely that should never happen and you guys stifled that again," said Mr. Freitas, and again said the board's actions were "shameful."

"I wrote the letter," repeated Mr. Freitas, rose from his seat, and told

Vinnie Furtado that he should release the letter to the public

As Mr. Freitas walked out the door, he said, "And you should get an attorney and I've got one, too," although it was unclear if he was talking to the board members or to one of the Furtados.

Mr. Ristuccia then suggested that they let people speak.

Carl Fleurent, who has been acting Water Superintendent since Mr. Fortin left, but did not become a finalist, stood up and said, "Oh, after the vote."

"You're a bunch of crooked f---ing guys, you really are," said Mr. Fleurent. "You want to talk to the people now after you voted. That's the way to do it."

Several people got up to leave and Mr. Fleurent called out, "Watch the water in Fairhaven," then walked out the back way through the offices.

Mr. Ristuccia asked for a vote on the motion to adjourn.

"All those in favor," he asked.

And Mr. Fleurent called out: "All those in favor of a crooked board?" as he walked out the door to the outside.

Mr. Fleurent still works in the Water Department.

The meeting adjourned, and the government access camera was turned off, but people still lingered and spoke to the board. Only Mr. Ristuccia and Vinnie Furtado responded. The other members, presumably aware that the meeting had adjourned, simply watched and listened.

Vinnie Furtado explained in response to a question, that although the town knew Mr. Fortin was going to retire in 2017, he did not give a date.

"The day he left, was the day I found out," said Vinnie Furtado.

Outside, before the meeting began, Mr. Freitas refused to say if he had written the letter. He did not return a phone call or an email from the *Neighb News* asking if he had written it.

"And I'm not going to," said Mr. Freitas outside the door on Arsene Street. When pressed, he said, "No comment."

Then he turned to two or three men standing outside and said, "You guys heard that, right?"

The unsigned letter was sent on 12/20/17 as an email attachment to Vinnie Furtado, who never shared it with the board to discuss in a meeting because, he told the *Neighb News*, he knew they already had it. He refused to forward the email to the *Neighb News*, without approval of Town Counsel. ●●●

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